



Concord Light news

March/April 2013

A newsletter for Concord residents, from your local utility



It's not too late to be a Good Neighbor

Some 31 Concord residents have donated a total of \$2,775 to the Salvation Army's Good Neighbor Energy Fund this year. If you would like to join them, it's not too late.

The fund helps those in financial need pay their winter energy bills. It targets individuals and families in temporary crisis who do not qualify for other types of assistance.

To donate, you can use the green envelope enclosed with bills earlier this winter, or send a check payable to Good Neighbor Energy Fund directly to The Salvation Army, 25 Shawmut Road, Canton, MA 02021-1408. You can also donate online at donate.salvationarmyusa.org/massachusetts/GNEF.

What you're saying

"I loved when you came. I learned so much from you. It was so much fun. You have a fun job. P.S. Don't get shocked!"

"I learned a lot from Ted [the lineworker]. I can't believe that in Concord there is a pole that is 60 feet tall. Wow!"

"Are you coming back again, because I'm sure other people would like your assembly."

Written by Willard School third-graders after a February visit from Concord Light staff

Local students mix fun with learning

The excitement was electric in local third-grade classrooms this winter, when Concord Light staff presented a lesson on the science of electricity and how to safely harness its power.

Our staff met in February with each of the 12 third-grade classrooms in Concord's public schools to talk about how electricity is made, how it gets to local homes, and how lineworkers do their job.

As part of the interactive lesson, students got the chance to make electricity by riding a bicycle generator, create circuits to operate fans and pinwheels, and touch a real solar panel – the same type of panel that provides some of the electricity used by the Willard School.

Concord Light's energy conservation coordinator, customer service staff, administrative assistant, engineering staff, lineworkers, electrician and custodian all pitched in along with Concord Public Schools faculty and staff to make these sessions a success. We had a great time, too, and we're already looking forward to next year.



Concord Light's Jan Aceti, left, and Chip Gent talk about electricity with local third-graders.

Concord has e-Smart kids

If you have children in grades 3 through 7, Concord Light has a fun online site for them to learn about electricity and how to use it safely and wisely.

Access it through the e-Smart kids link on our website at concordma.gov/cmlp. You'll find games, videos, and many interactive activities related to energy, efficiency, safety, and the environment.

There are even sections for parents and teachers to help reinforce the science and safety lessons. But for kids, it's mainly fun. They don't need to know it's educational, too!

Community news



Picnic-in-the-Park needs volunteers

Concord's Picnic-in-the-Park Committee needs volunteers to support this year's July 4 celebration at Emerson Field. Committee members will work a few hours each month through July. Volunteers are also needed to work at the event. Call 978-369-6690.

Housing Authority seeks candidates

The Concord Housing Authority seeks qualified candidates for their two- and three-bedroom family public housing waiting lists. Those living or working in Concord or who have honorable discharge veteran's status will receive a preference. Screening for eligibility requirements, including income, will be required. Call the Concord Housing Authority at 978-369-8435 for information, or visit concordha.org.

Have a community event you would like to see here? Call Carole Hilton at 978-318-3158.

Your local utility

On April 4, 1898, Town Meeting voters took control of Concord's electric service by establishing a municipal Light Plant. The idea behind the new utility was that local control would mean better utility service and lower rates. After 115 years, the idea still works. Happy birthday, Concord Light!

Keeping the lights on in Concord

Building and maintaining a modern and efficient electric system that keeps up with a community's changing needs is a team effort. In Concord, the team includes nine lineworkers and two underground construction workers.

They bring a combined total of 146 years of experience to a demanding job, whether it's upgrading equipment, extending service to new customers, working on underground construction, or restoring power after an outage.

"Probably the most rewarding aspect of the job is restoring power safely and efficiently after major storms," says Lead Lineworker Chip Gent, who has some 43 years of experience. It's especially satisfying, he added, when customers go out of their way to say thanks.

In addition to Gent, Concord's lineworkers include Lead Lineworker David Ransom, Lineworker Grade 1 P.J. Connell, Lineworker Grade 1 Dan McDonough, Lead Lineworker Ted Bartkus, Lineworker Grade 1 Peter Hughes, Lineworker Grade 1 Jack Tombeno, Lineworker Grade 1 Michael Hoogendoorn and Lineworker Grade 1 Steven Ransom. Underground construction workers are Eric Bjornson and Steve Dunn.

Our lineworkers help others, too

Our lineworkers also help others in need when possible. They traveled as far as the U.S. Virgin Islands in the 1980s after devastating hurricanes hit, but most calls for help are closer to home. Recently, two of our crews spent several days in Middleborough, MA to help restore power there after they, unlike Concord, sustained widespread damage during the Blizzard of 2013.



Lead Lineworker Chip Gent

The Concord Light team that builds and maintains our electric distribution system

These options cut costs, not comfort

Electric thermal storage heating. ETS uses electricity during off-peak hours to store heat that can warm spaces any time. Our off-peak rate for ETS means that it costs less than oil and is very competitive with natural gas. See working ETS heaters at our office.

Electric hot water savings. If your home has ELECTRIC hot water, you can choose our off-peak rate for your water heating. The rate works with an electronic switch that allows us to cycle power to your water heater during peak periods when power is most expensive.

For more details on these two options, visit concordma.gov/cmlp, call Carole Hilton at 978-318-3158 or email chilton@concordma.gov.

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Monday – Friday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

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